

April 23, 1958

Mr. John Pfeiffer
P. O. Box 177
New Hope, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Pfeiffer:

There are so many people you will want to see it is hard to draw the line. While you are in Naples you ought to meet Paul Buchner (see enclosure) at the Museo dell' Isola d'Ischia, Porto d'Ischia. In Pavia there is Cavalli at the Genetics Department (right now he is with me in Madison but he will return in July); there is also Buzzatti-Traverso who is an accomplished evolutionist.

You will already know about the Pasteur Institute group in Paris; you should also meet Ephrussi and L'Heritier at the CNRS lab at Gif-sur-Yvette and Teissier at the Sorbonne. I will be in Paris myself (for a meeting at Royanmont) the last week in July. The microbiology congress at Stockholm August 4-9 might interest you. In the U. K. the A/L character is of course Crick at Cambridge; he will be away most of the summer after mid June. You can't afford to miss him though you might meet him during your travels. There are a lot of labs in London - you might especially want to meet Pollock at Mill Hill and Medawar at University College. Pirie at Rothamsted is one of the acutest commentators on the origin of life. Other important evolutionists are Huxley (Julian, T. M.'s grandson); Danielli, at Kings College, London; R. A. Fisher (inquire at Cambridge); Waddington at Edinburgh. You may want to meet the group at Harwell working on artificial mouse-rat chimaeras.

There is no point enumerating all the biologists in Europe. Paris and London are obviously the most active centers.

I'm not the man to say much on the astronomical side. You want to try to catch Hoyle & Co. at Cambridge. Van de Hulst (Leiden) is a world authority on interstellar matter. I was much impressed by Dufay's book - he is I believe at the Lyon observatory. If there is another astrophysical colloquium at Liege this summer you'll want to catch it. A biochemical evolutionist Florkin is also at Liege.

Of course the most active group of theorists on biochemical evolution has been the Russians and if you have a chance you ought to include Moscow (Academician Oparin) in your itinerary.

This should be more than you can possibly manage. If I don't see you in Europe then perhaps back here in the fall. I am planning to be abroad (Paris-Stockholm-London-Edinburgh-Montreal) for a circuit of meetings and Congresses from about July 25 to the end of August.

Best wishes,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/ew